

UNLEASHING THE POWER OF ONLINE NETWORKS THROUGH OPENNESS

Barlow-Zambodla, A.;Carr, T.;Hodgkinson-Williams, C.;Goodier, S.;

;

© 2018, BARLOW-ZAMBODLA, A., CARR, T., HODGKINSON-WILLIAMS, C.
& GOODIER, S.



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction, provided the original work is properly credited.

Cette œuvre est mise à disposition selon les termes de la licence Creative Commons Attribution (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>), qui permet l'utilisation, la distribution et la reproduction sans restriction, pourvu que le mérite de la création originale soit adéquatement reconnu.

IDRC Grant/ Subvention du CRDI: 107311-001-Research into Open Educational Resources for Development

Unleashing the power of online networks through openness

Alice Barlow-Zambodla, Tony Carr
Cheryl Hodgkinson-Williams & Sarah Goodier

OE Global 2017



Centre for
Innovation in
Learning and
Teaching

e/merge africa

unleashing the power of networks





Programme



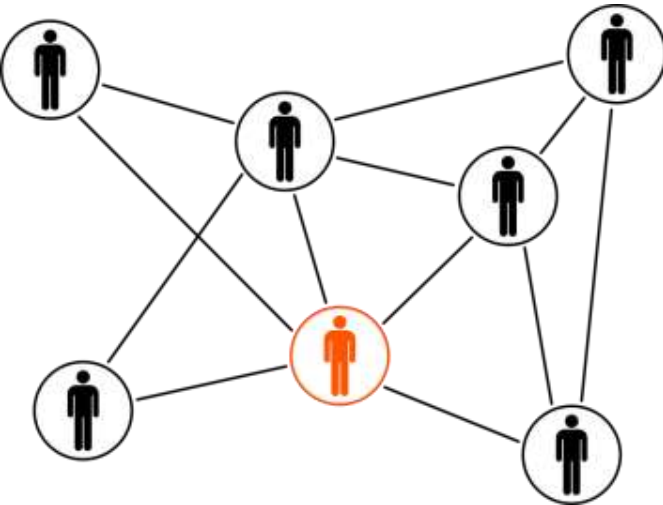
- 1) Opening activities
- 2) How the [e/merge Africa](#) and [ROER4D](#) networks use openness
- 3) Strategies and tools to map and analyse developing networks
- 4) Using Peer assists as a tool to ‘do “open” better’
- 5) Reflections, insights and persistent questions



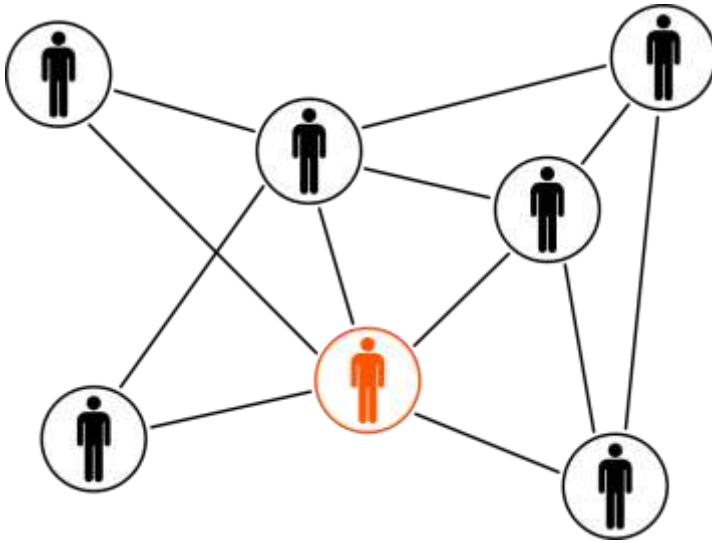
Human Spectrogram

Us and our networks

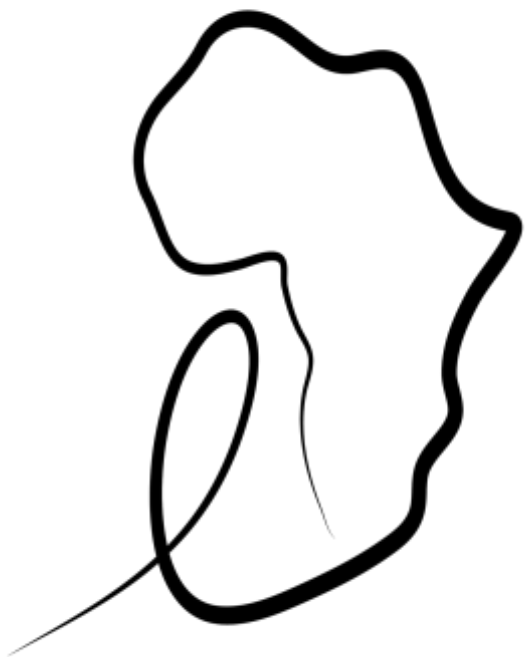




Researchers



Practitioners



e/merge africa

growing e-learning capacity together



e/merge Africa is an African online network that serves to:

- **share** good practice and good research
- **provide** facilitated spaces for community of practice interactions
- **foster** fruitful conversations across related specialist professional practices

The landscape includes **educators**, **course designers**, **researchers**, **professional development experts**, **technologists**, **educational managers**, **policy experts** and **postgraduate students**



In 2016



30 countries (18
African)

Top five:
South Africa
Nigeria
Kenya
Zimbabwe
Ghana

506 signed up
321 active
160 participants in
Facilitating Online

Tools used by the team...

Email

Google Hangouts

Google Docs/Drive

Facebook

WhatsApp

Messenger

Skype

Team Viewer



Tools for growing our community

Email list

Open source LMS

Live meeting server

Wordpress sites

Google Docs/Drive

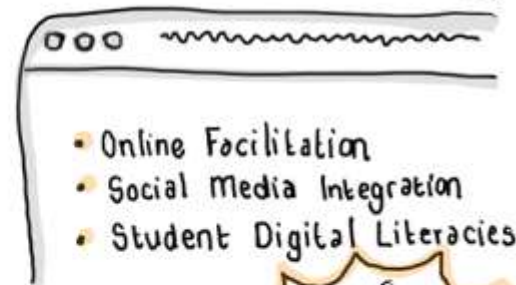
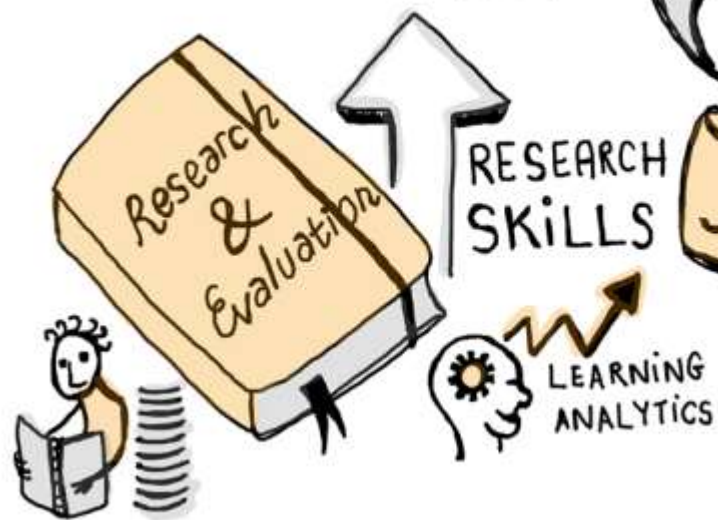
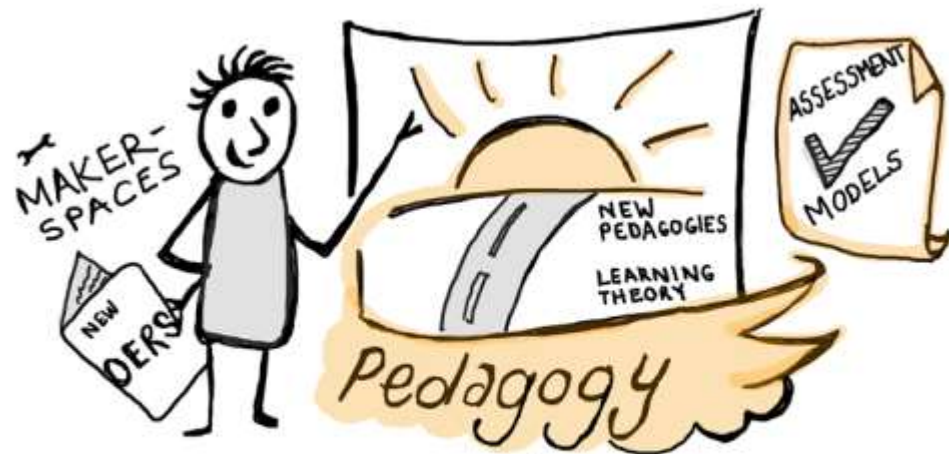
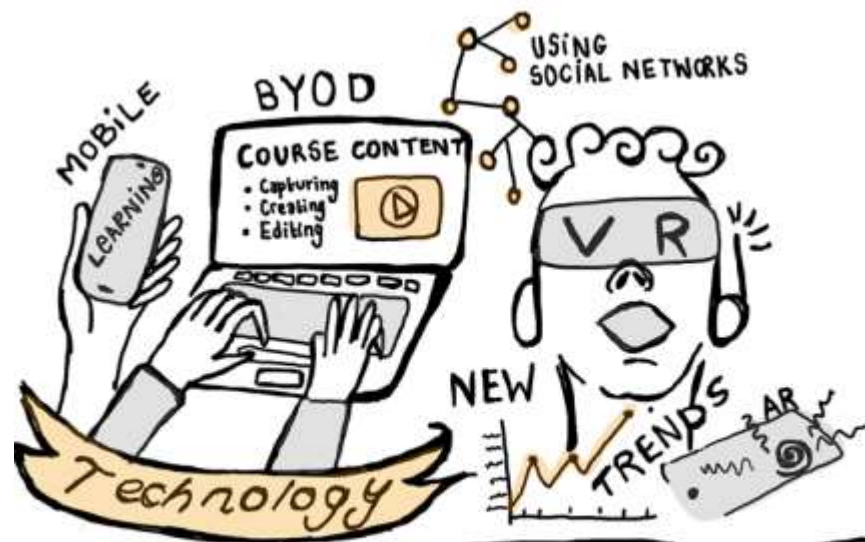
Facebook group/ events

Twitter

Linked In

YouTube channel





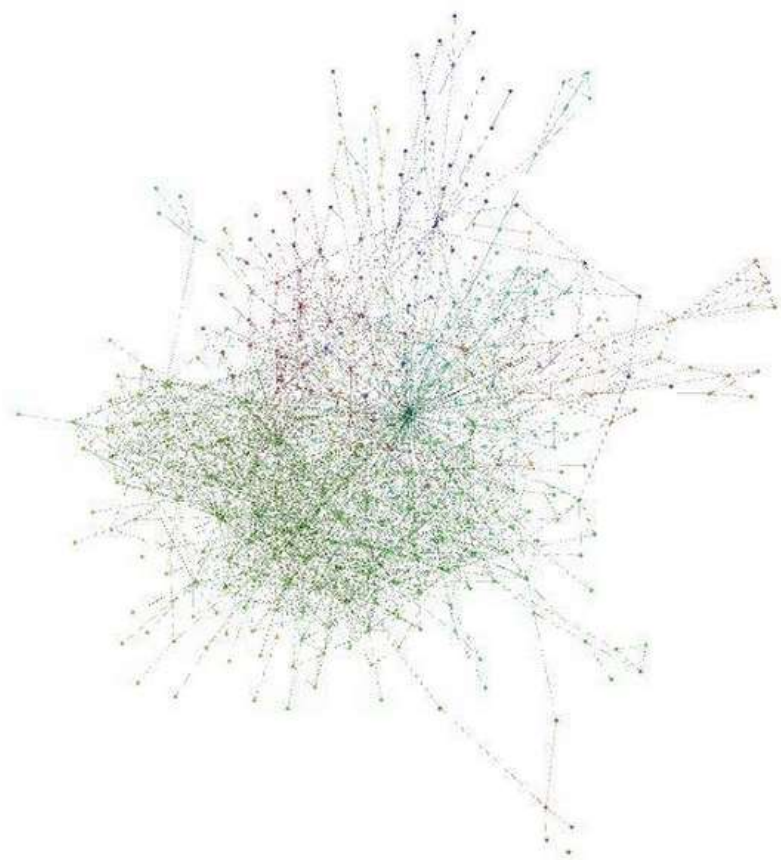
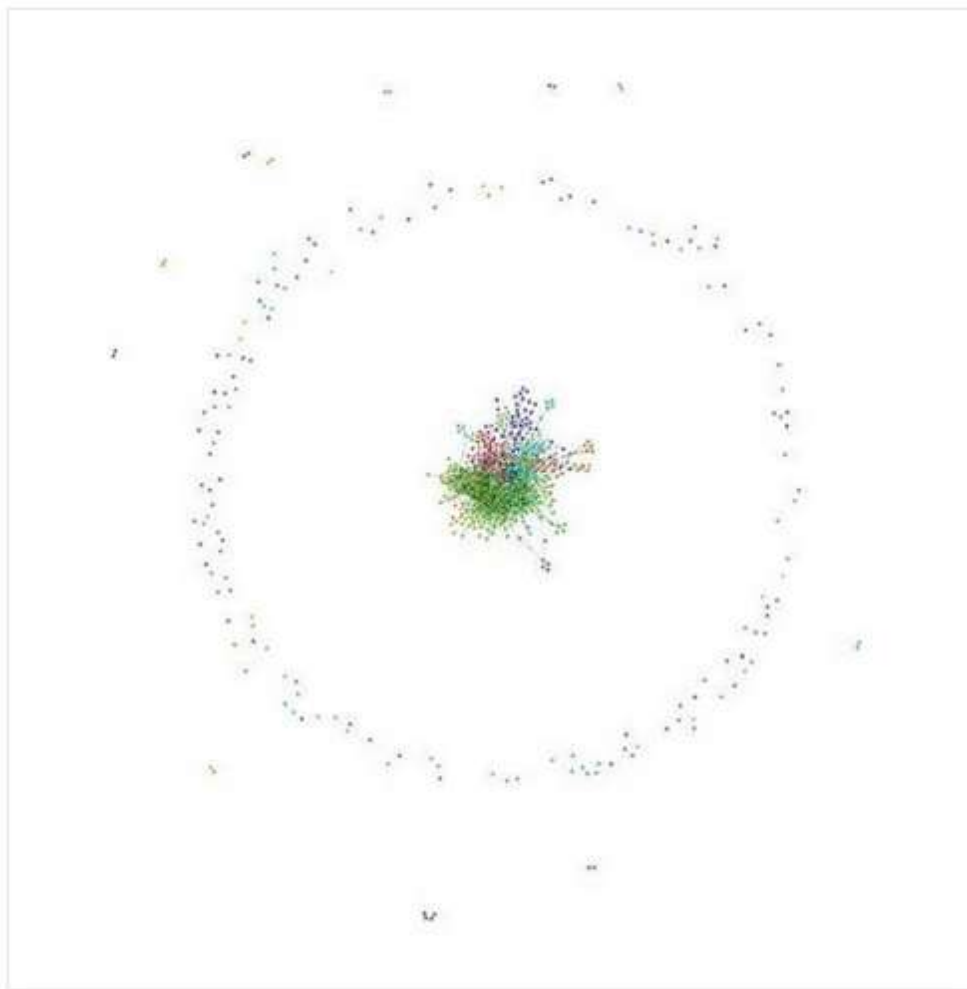


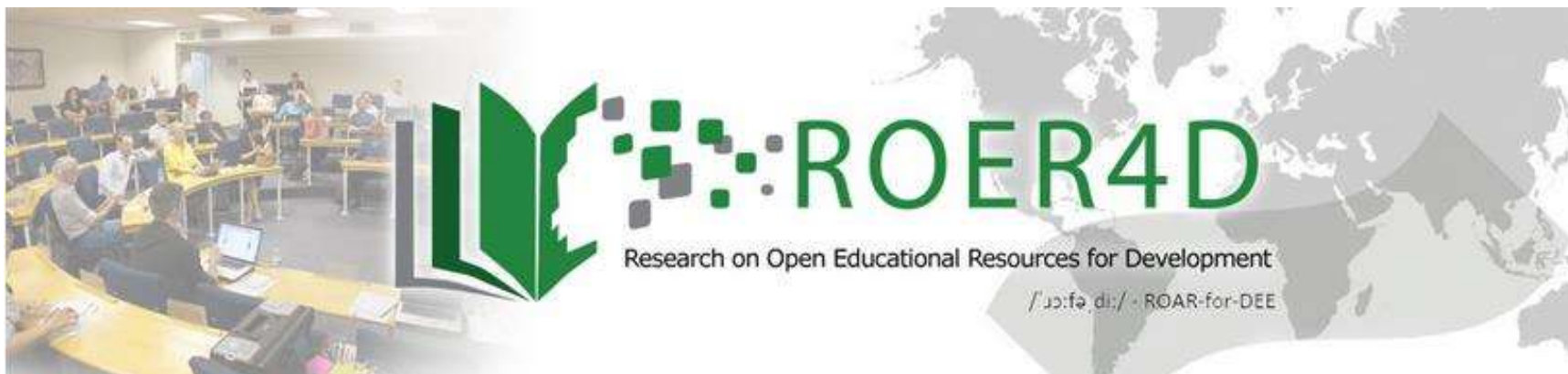
Some Challenges faced

- Achieving critical mass in events
- Participation between events
- Improving curation and dissemination of resources
- How much openness?



Our Facebook Group





The purpose of the [ROER4D](http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-5080-0) network

Cheryl Hodgkinson-Williams

OE Global 2017
9 March 2017



Research on Open Educational Resources for Development (ROER4D)

- *In what ways, and under what circumstances can the **adoption of OER** address the increasing demand for accessible, relevant, high-quality and affordable education in the Global South?*

A world map with the landmasses in a light gray color. A large, semi-transparent blue area highlights the 'Global South' regions, which include South America, sub-Saharan Africa, and Southeast Asia. The text 'in the Global South' is written in green over this blue area.

in the Global South

<http://roer4d.org/>

Research on Open Educational Resources for Development in the Global South

GENERAL OBJECTIVE:

IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL POLICY, PRACTICE and RESEARCH in developing countries
by better understanding the use and impact of OER

August 2013 - February 2017

PROJECT CLUSTERS



roer4d.org

[facebook.com/
ResearchOERforDevelopment](https://facebook.com/ResearchOERforDevelopment)
twitter.com/roer4d

 **ROER4D**
Research on Open Educational Resources for Development
/ˈrɔːfə diː - ROAR-for-DEE



wawasan
open UNIVERSITY
the people's university

IDRC
International Development
Research Centre



CRDI
Centre de recherches pour le
développement international



created by Rondine Carstens and the ROER4D team



ROER4D has 100 researchers & assistants across 18 sub-projects in 26 countries across 16 time zones, supported by 2 full time and 9 part-time “hub” team members at the University of Cape Town, South Africa and the Wawasan Open University, Penang, Malaysia

ROER4D Objectives

1. Build an empirical knowledge base on the use and impact of OER in education
2. Develop the capacity of OER researchers
3. Build a network of OER scholars
4. Communicate research to inform education policy and practice
5. Curate output as open content

Internally within the sub-project
ROER4D team

Externally with other researchers,
OER funders, government
agencies



ROER4D Key Evaluation Areas

1. Build an empirical knowledge base on the use and impact of OER in education
2. Develop the capacity of OER researchers
3. Build a network of OER scholars
4. Communicate research to inform education policy and practice
5. Curate output as open content

EVALUATION



**Using the utilization
focused evaluation (UFE)
framework**



ROER4D Key Evaluation Areas

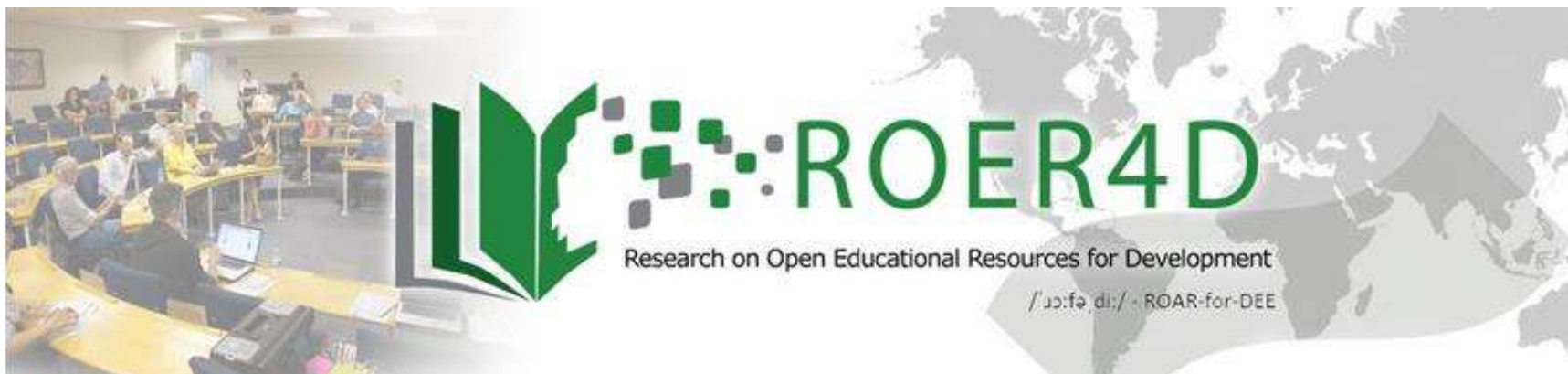
1. Build an empirical knowledge base on the use and impact of OER in education
2. Develop the capacity of OER researchers
3. Build a network of OER scholars
4. Communicate research to inform education policy and practice
5. Curate output as open content



**Social
networking**

KEQ:

To what extent has ROER4D built a network of OER scholars?



Strategies and tools to map and analyse developing networks: The case of using Social Network Analysis in ROER4D

Sarah Goodier
ROER4D Evaluation Advisor

OEGlobal 2017
9 March 2017



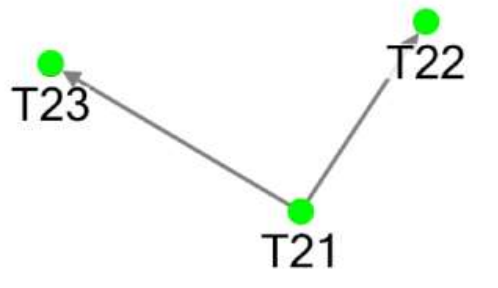
Outline

- What is social network analysis (SNA)?
- Why use SNA?
- How to use SNA: The case of ROER4D
- Evaluating networking in ROER4D
- Discussion & conclusion

WHAT IS SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS?

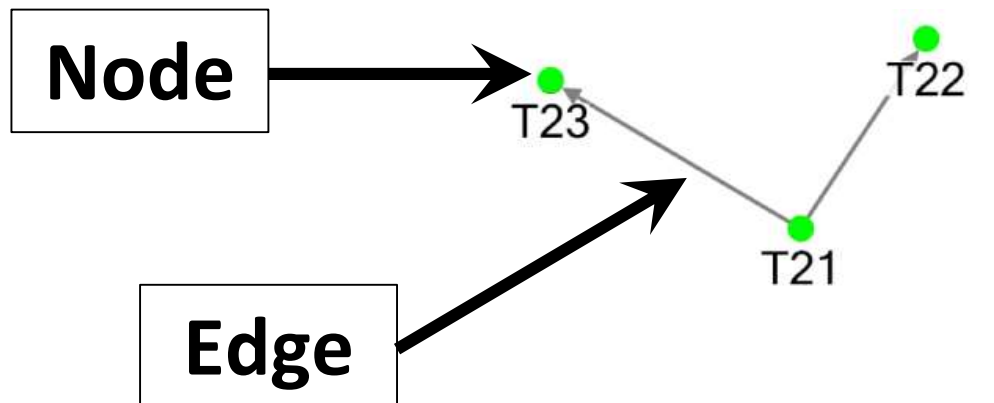
Social network analysis =

Visualising, exploring and understanding structural data about relationships between members within networks



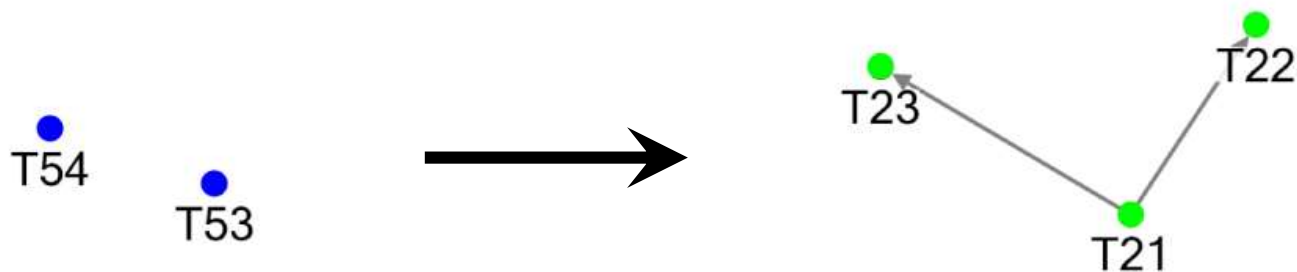
Social network analysis =

Visualising, exploring and understanding structural data about relationships between members within networks



**WHY USE SOCIAL NETWORK
ANALYSIS?**

- While building a network, **understanding how it is growing and developing** can provide key information that can inform future network building
- Can consider:
 - different timepoints
 - types of relationships
 - Strength of ties
 - Etc.



EVALUATING NETWORKING IN ROER4D

ROER4D Key Evaluation Areas

1. Build an empirical knowledge base on the use and impact of OER in education
2. Develop the capacity of OER researchers
3. Build a network of OER scholars
4. Communicate research to inform education policy and practice
5. Curate output as open content

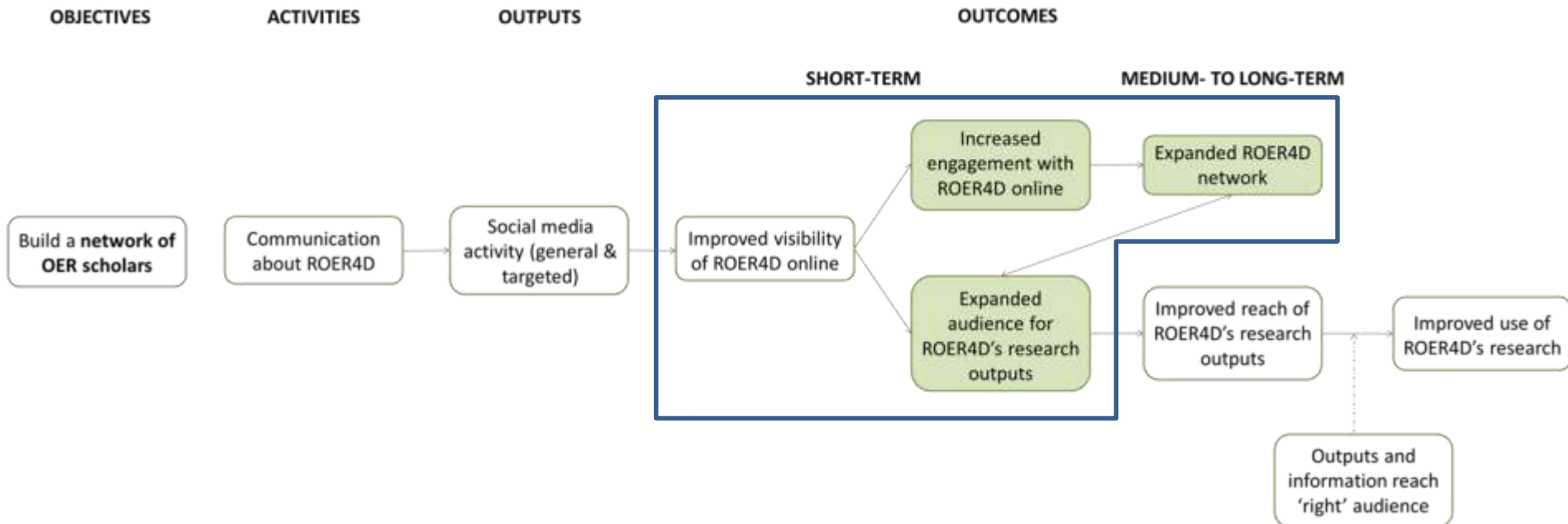


**Social
networking**

KEQ:

To what extent has ROER4D built a network of OER scholars?

Twitter in communications



Use(s)

KEQs

Measure

Tools

To improve
ROER4D's
communication
strategy

To have proof of
concept about
ROER4D's
networking model

To what extent has
ROER4D built a
network of OER
scholars?

Social media
networks analytics
e.g. Twitter

Twitter Analytics

TAGS

NodeXL

Use(s)

KEQs

Measure

Tools

To improve
ROER4D's
communication
strategy

To have proof of
concept about
ROER4D's
networking model

To what extent has
ROER4D built a
network of OER
scholars?

Social media
networks analytics
e.g. Twitter

Twitter Analytics

TAGS

NodeXL

NodeXL

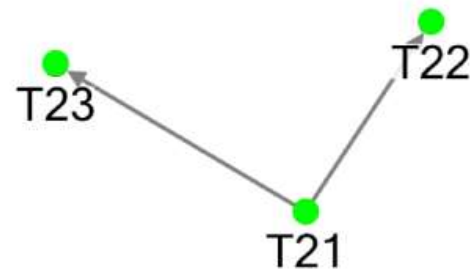
Interactions - 7-day window

7-day snapshots:

Network diagrams of replies
and mentions

**Data collected monthly or
when the PIU requires an update**

- For general network visualisations and analysis SNA
- Helps you to graph the relationships between entities
- Add-on for Excel
- Direct importing of (some) social media data



NodeXL

Interactions - 7-day window

7-day snapshots:

Network diagrams of replies
and mentions

**Data collected monthly or
when the PIU requires an update**

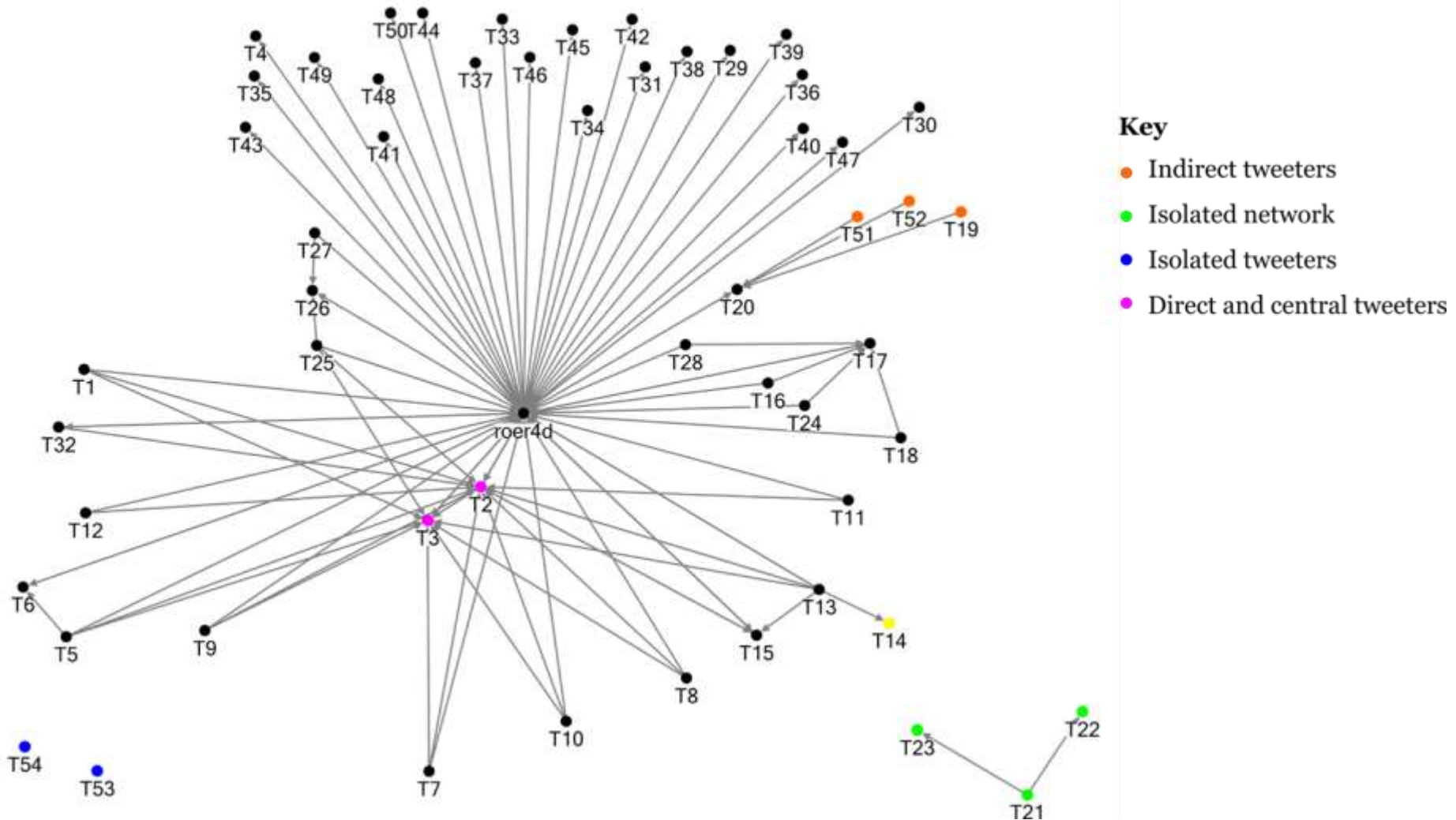
- For general network visualisations and analysis
- Helps you to graph the relationships between entities
- Add-on for Excel
- Direct importing of (some) social media data

Used to:

- visualise the growing number of followers of the ROER4D Twitter account
- investigate who was interacting with that account at defined timepoints

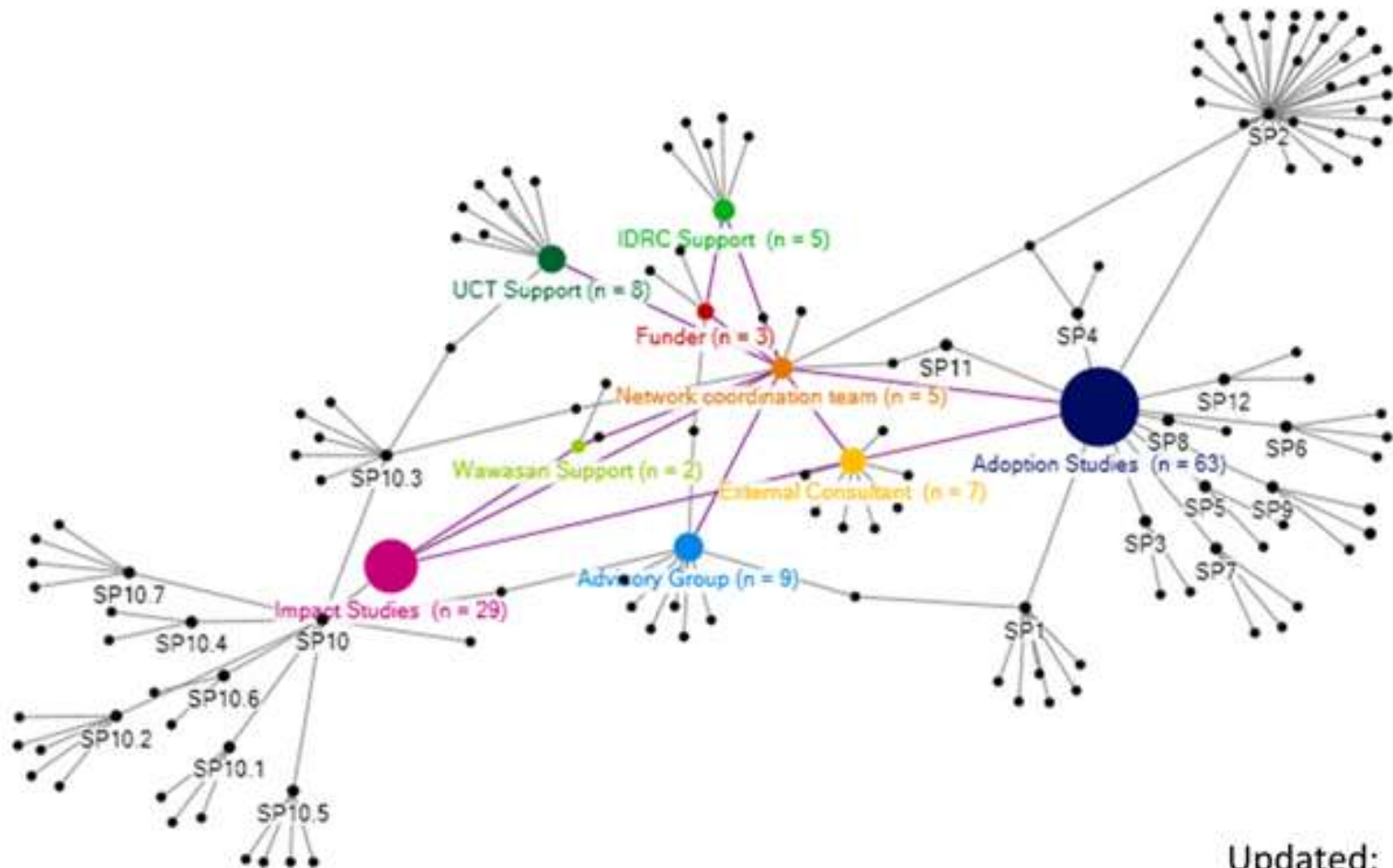
* Live Demo *

NodeXL



DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

How could you use NodeXL in your project?



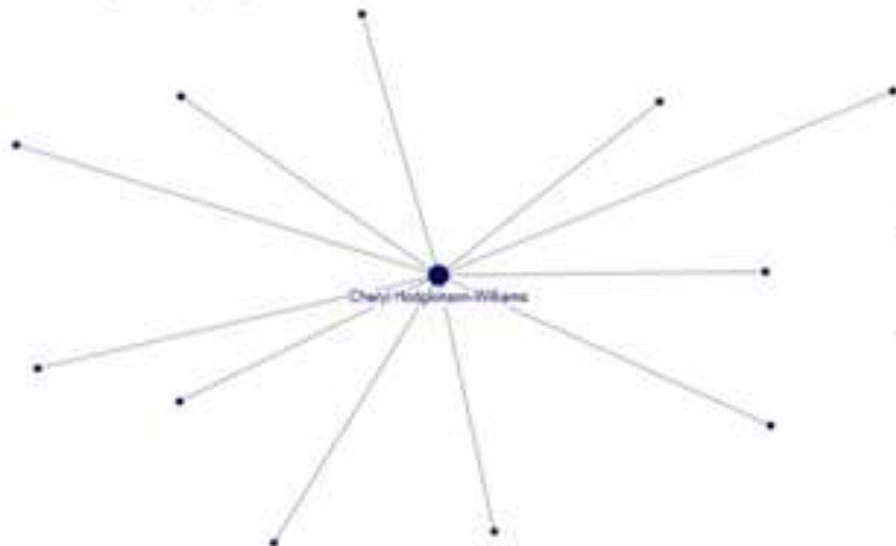
Created with NodeXL (<http://nodexl.codeplex.com>)

Updated:
February 2015

- Visualise your internal project network over time

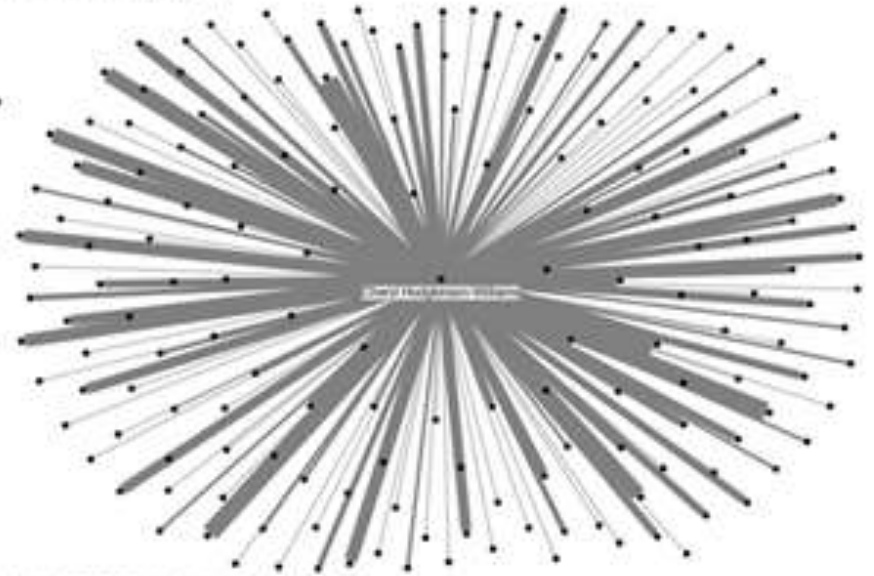
How could you use NodeXL in your project?

Phase 0 Chiangmai Meeting May 2012



Created with NodeXL (<http://nodexl.codeplex.com/>)

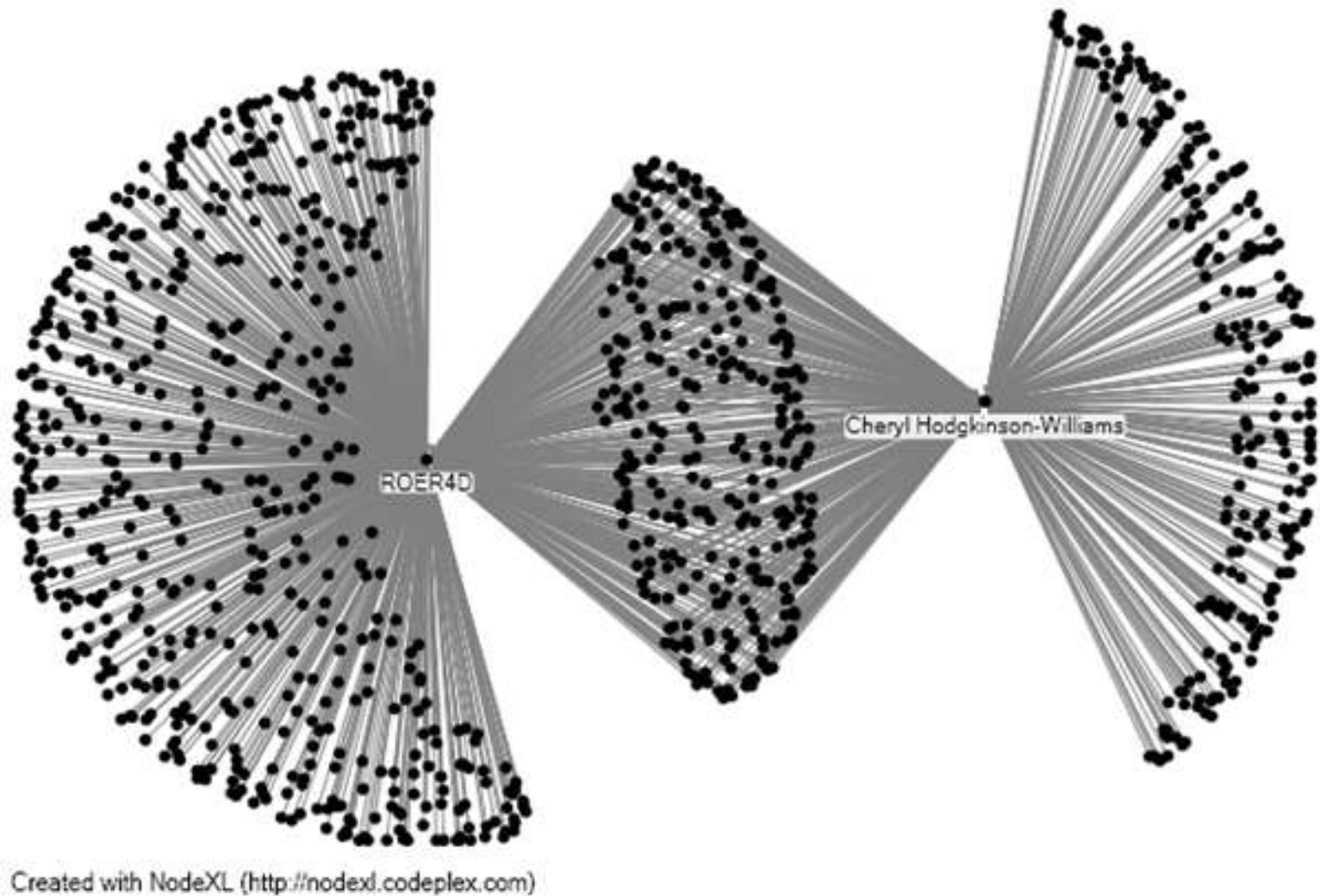
Official Conference 14 Dec 2014 London



Created with NodeXL (<http://nodexl.codeplex.com/>)

- Track network growth over time

How could you use NodeXL in your project?



- Compare social media accounts to identify audiences

Key points

- SNA focuses on relationships – good for networking
 - Define your purpose: What do you want to know?
 - Gather data to answer your questions
 - Act on that data to inform your networking activities
-
- Evidence of success in the ROER4D project
 - Informed project & fueled improvement
-
- Can be applied to other projects

Recommendations

- Network as widely as possible online, and strategically with face-to-face meetings
- Track your/your project's networking
- Analyse your project's network: this is a valuable “at-a-glance” showcase of your project
- Find free or cost-effective network tracking and visualisation tools that meet your requirements

Thank you!



Website: <http://roer4d.org>

Contact author: Sarah Goodier

sarah.goodier@uct.ac.za

[@SarahGoodier](#)



Excluding images,
screenshots and
logos and/or
unless otherwise
indicated on
content

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



Biggest challenges in growing our networks?

We invite you to share these and map them in groups of four or five. Decide together on one that you'd like to nominate for more attention in this workshop.



Using Peer assists as a tool to ‘do “open” better” within and across networks



Leveraging on available expertise





Ride on the wings of experts



Or

Provide the expert wings



Grow Your Innovation

Grow your
network
Achieve your
target
through peer assist





The Peer Assist Process

Purpose of a Peer Assist is to:

- Gain assistance and insights from others – *it is not a review*
- Identify possible approaches/solutions or new lines of enquiry
- Share learning i.e. knowledge sharing through participatory learning,
- Enable collective problem solving.
- Help develop networks amongst participants

WHAT IS IT?



Related practices

PEER ASSIST

UNLEASH THE EXPERIENCE & INSIGHT IN YOUR LANDSCAPE OF PRACTICE

? QUESTIONS
FEEDBACK

Network



Workshop presented at #eLA15
by @emergeAfrica

@tony.emerge
Tony

@zwakausu
Jerome

@alicebz
Alice

@Jakob
Jakob

Mohamed

@GabrielKonayuma
Gabriel

@nicolapallitt
Nicola

THE PROCESS:

Qs RE
Clarification

THE
CHALLENGE

SUGGESTIONS

Reflection
by challenge
presenter

What's
NEXT?

Qs RE
Assumptions

SKETCHNOTE BY
@NICOLAPALLITT



Reflections, Questions.....



ROER4D is hosted at the Centre for Innovation in Learning & Teaching, University of Cape Town

Address: 7th Floor, PD Hahn Building, North Lane, Upper Campus, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa

For further information contact:

Principal Investigator: Cheryl Hodgkinson-Williams
(cheryl.hodgkinson-williams@uct.ac.za)

Project Manager: Tess Cartmill (tess.cartmill@uct.ac.za)

Communications Advisor: Sukaina Walji
(sukaina.walji@uct.ac.za)



e/merge africa

unleashing the power of networks

e/merge Africa is a professional development network for educational technology practitioners & researchers in African higher education.

Regular professional development activities include:

- online seminars & workshops
- short courses online
- conference workshops



Join our Public Facebook group
Follow @emergeAfrica on Twitter
Watch e/merge Africa on YouTube

Become a member today!

Sign up for our newsletter via our website. You will receive emails about upcoming events.

Peer assist sessions

Do you have a professional challenge related to eLearning practice that's hard to crack? Would others benefit from a conversation around this topic? Let us know by applying to be a challenge presenter for one of our online peer assist sessions. Please see our website for details.

Call for speakers

Nominate a speaker (someone else or yourself) via our website to present a webinar or workshop/seminar series.

Contact us

info@emergeafrica.net

e/merge Africa is a project of the Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching at University of Cape Town and is supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

As an AECT affiliate, e/merge Africa members can join the AECT at a special rate.

emergeafrica.net



growing e-learning capacity together